About 1693

PROPOSALS

FOR

Printing by Subſcription,

Cambden's Britannia, Engliſh.

Newly Tranſlated with Large ADDITIONS.

CAMBDEN's *BRITANNIA* in Engliſh being very Scarce and Dear, the Price of a Fair one being at preſent no leſs then Three Pound, tho' the Edition be but a very bad one, and the Tranſlation very ill; divers Gentlemen have long deſired the Re-printing of it in *Engliſh*, and to the doing thereof great numbers have already Contributed by Subſcriptions: It is thought fit for the general Advantage, that theſe Propoſals for Printing the ſaid Book by Subſcription be made publick.

The Reputation and Worth of the Author and Book is ſo univerſally known that nothing need be ſaid here to Recommend it, except the Account of the Method to be uſed in Printing this Edition, which ſhall be Printed in a fair Character, and on very good Paper, according to this Specimen.

The whole Book new Tranſlated from the Original, which ſeveral Gentlemen of great Learning and Skill in the Antiquities of *ENGLAND* have undertaken to do.

In the former Tranſlation made by Doctor *Philemon Holland*, many Additions of the Tranſlator, were by a very unwarantable Liberty inſerted into the Text, which are here put as Notes only at the end of the Page.

The Additions will be theſe,

A new Account of Mr. *Cambden*'s Life and Works ſhall be given at large.

A Map of *England* as in the times of the *Romans* will be Printed according to *Antoninus*'s Itinerary, with the Names and Situation of the *Roman* Towns, Colonies, and Ways.

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2597 b.1 (1)

Places mentioned by *Cambden*, inſerted , tho' many of them have by time been quite deſtroyed.

All the Diſcoveries that have been made in ſeveral Counties ſince Mr. *Cambden's* Death, in the particular Hiſtories of well nigh half the Counties of *England*, and in ſeveral Manuſcripts and Hiſtories, ſhall be added in ſhort as Notes, or ſet forth in the Diſſertation following the whole Work; together with an Account of all thoſe Authors that have Illuſtrated *England* in General, or any one County in Particular.

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The Manuſcript Notes and Corrections of Mr. *John Selden* will be added to the Work, as likewiſe ſeveral other Corrections of Eminent Perſons upon the whole Work, or on part thereof, will be added in the Margin, or at the bottom of the Page, and not intermixt with the Text.

To which purpoſe, all Gentlemen that have made any ſuch Corrections or Remarks are deſired to Tranſmit them to the Undertakers who will faithfully Inſert them.

The large Diſcourſe of Mr. *Cambden* concerning the Government of the *Romans* and *Saxons* in *England*, concerning the Degrees in *England*, and the Courts of *Britain*, will by large Marginal Notes be much Corrected and Improved, and ſome Original Diſcourſes on that Subject will be added by an Eminent Hand.

Divers large INDEX'S and GLOSSARIES will be added at the end of the Work.

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BRITAIN.

BRITAIN, by the *Latins* called *Britannia*, and *Albion*, by the *Greeks* Βρεταννία, Βρεττανική, Πρεττανὶς, Ἀλβιὼν, and Ἀλουὼν, the moſt Famous Iſland of the whole World, is divided from the Continent of *Europe* by the Ocean. It lies over againſt *Germany* and *France* in a * *Triangular Form*, by reaſon of Three Promontories ſhooting out into divers parts, *viz.* *Belerium* [the Lands End] toward the Weſt; *Cantium* [the Foreland in *Kent*] toward the Eaſt; *Tarviſium* or *Orcas* [the Point of *Cathneß* in *Scotland*] toward the North. On the Weſt, where *Ireland* lies, the *Vergivian* [or Weſtern] Sea breaks in; On the North it is beaten upon by the vaſt and wide Northern Sea: On the Eaſt, where it Coaſteth upon *Germany*, it is waſh'd by the *German* Ocean; On the South over againſt *France* by the *Britiſh*. Thus divided by a convenient Diſtance from theſe Neighbouring Nations, and made fit by its open Harbors for the Traffick of the whole World, it ſeems to thruſt itſelf forward on every ſide into the Sea, for the general Benefit of Mankind. For between *Kent* and *Calais* in *France* it carries it ſelf ſo far into the Sea, and the Channel is ſo ſtraight, that (a) ſome are of opinion that a Breach was there made, and that the Sea hath work'd it ſelf thro' the Neck of Land, which before joyn'd the two Countries to each other; and to confirm this they bring *Virgil* in that Verſe,

* Figura Triquetra. Cel. Com. l. 5.

See in *Kent*.

Et peniſus toto diviſos Orbe Britannos.

And *Britann*'s far from all the World disjoyn'd.

Becauſe as *Servius Honoratus* ſays, *Britain* was anciently joyn'd to the Continent. Thus *Claudian* in Imitation of *Virgil*,

——*Noſtro diducta Britannia Mundo.*

And *Britain* ſever'd from our World.

It is not at all unlikely that the outward Face and Faſhion of the Earth may by the *Deluge* and other Cauſes have been alter'd, that ſome Mountains may have been raiſed and heightned, and many High Places may have ſunk into Plains and Valleys; Lakes and Meers may have been dried up, and dry Places may have become Lakes and Meers, and ſome Iſlands may have been torn and broken off from the Continent. But whether it be true indeed, and whether there were any Iſlands before the Flood, I ſhall not here argue, nor of God's Works inconſiderately give my Opinion. All know that the Divine Providence hath diſpos'd different things to the ſame ends. And indeed it hath always been allow'd, as well by Divines as Philoſophers, That Iſles ſcatter'd in the Sea do as equally contribute to the Beauty of the whole World in general, as the vaſt extent of Lakes and the heighth of Mountains upon Land.

Livy and *Fabius Ruſticus* have made the Form of this [Iſland] to reſemble an * Oblong Platter, or † Two edg'd Ax; and ſuch certainly is its Shape towards the South, (as *Tacitus* obſerves) which yet hath been ill apply'd to the whole Iſland. But Northward that vaſt Tract of Land ſhooting forward to a Point, groweth narrow and ſharp like a Wedge. The Ancients thought it ſo great, and ſo very large in Circumference, that *Cæſar*, who firſt of all the *Romans* diſcover'd it, wrote that he had found out another World, ſuppoſing it ſo great, that it ſeem'd not to be ſurrounded with the Sea, but even to contain and encompaſs the Ocean. And *Julius Solinus Polyhiſtor* aſſerts, That for its largeneſs, it almoſt deſerv'd to be call'd another World. Nevertheleſs, our Age, by many and often Surveys, have now well nigh found the true Dimenſions of the whole Iſle. For from *Tarviſium* [the Point of *Cathneß*] unto *Belerium* [the Lands end] reckoning the windings and turnings of the Shores along the Weſt, are computed about DCCC XII Miles, from thence along the Coaſts as they bend Southward to *Cantium* [the *Kentiſh* Foreland] CCC XX Miles; hence Coaſting by the *German* Ocean with crooked Creeks and Inlets for DCC IV Miles, it reacheth to *Tarviſium* [the Point of *Cathneß*]. So that by this Computation the whole Iſland is in Circuit M DCCC XXX IV Miles. Which Meaſure, as it falls much ſhort of Pliny's, ſo it is ſomewhat leſs then *Cæſars*: *Schitinius Chius* is not worth my mentioning, who in *Apollonius* (having among other Wonders told us ſtrange Stories of Fruits growing in *Britain* without Kernels, and Grapes without Stones,) makes its Circuit CCCC *Stadia* Furlongs, and no more. But *Dionyſius* after in his Deſcription of the World, hath given a much better Account of the *Britiſh* Iſlands, that is, *Britain* and *Ireland*.

* *Scutulæ Oblongæ.*
† *Bipennis.* See Sir H. *Savil* upon this place in *Tacitus*.

The Panegyrick ſpoken to *Conſtantius*, falſly Entituled to *Maximian*.

Cæſ. l. 5.

Τόσσον γε νήσοιο πεπώκασιν; οὐδ' τις ἄλλη
Νήσων ἐν πόντῳ Βρεττανίῃ ἰσοφαρίζει.

Vaſt is the Compaſs of the *Britiſh* Coaſts;
A like Extent no Rival Iſland boaſts.

And with him *Ariſtides* and other *Greek* Writers agree, who by way of Excellency have truly call'd *Britain* Μεγάλην νῆσον the Great Iſland.

Now they that have more accurately compar'd the Spaces of Heaven with the Tracts of Earth, have placed *Britain* under the VIII*th*. Climate, and include it within the XVIII*th*. & XXVI*th*. Parallels: They allow to its longeſt Day at XVIII Equinoctial Hours and an half. But *Belerium* [the Lands end] by reaſon of the Convex Situation of the Earth, they place XVI Degrees and L Scruples from the firſt Point Weſtward; *Cantium* [the *Kentiſh* Foreland] XXI Degrees of Longitude. As for the Latitude, they Meaſure in the Southern Parts [illegible] Degrees XL Scruples; at *Tarviſium* [*Cathneß*] LIX Degrees XL Scruples. So that according to this Computation [illegible] as to Air and Soil, *Britain* may be accounted moſt happy and temperate. The Air is Thin and Gentle, that not only the Summers are not Sultry, (the continual Breezes ſtill allaying the Heats, refreſhing the Fruits of the Earth,

(a) That *Britain* was once by an Iſthmus joyn'd Eaſtward to the Continent of *France*, ſeems no improbable Opinion. However, you may ſee (beſides Authors mention'd by Mr Dumbleton) *Plot*'s Hiſt. *Britain*. *Nat.* 11. *Burton*'s Commentary on *Antonin.* p. 18. 19. *Twin.* de *Relig. Albion & Britan. Samuel Bochart*, l. 1. c. 4. *Verſtegan*, l. 1. c. 4. Some Forreigners alſo, *Dominicus Marius Niger*, *Antonius Valſcus*, *Wernerus*, and *Du Bartas* have favour'd this groundleſs Tradition.

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